

Idaho Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Board Meeting

**Thursday – September 9, 2004
Red Lion Templin's Hotel– Post Falls, Idaho**

The following report is not intended to be a verbatim transcript of the discussions at the meeting, but is intended to record the significant features of those discussions.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Minegar called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 9, 2004, at the Red Lion Templin's Hotel, in Post Falls, Idaho.

PRESENT

Board members present were: Mr. Pat Minegar, Mr. Russ Firkins, Ms. Carol Alexander, Mr. Jim Bledsoe, Mr. Steve Brown, Mr. Mike Wisdom, and Mr. Steve Keys

Present from the Division of Building Safety were: Mr. Dave Munroe, Administrator; Ms. Marsi Woody, Financial Officer; Ms. Kay Manweiler, Deputy Attorney General; Mr. Ted Hogander, HVAC Bureau Chief; Mr. Russ Owen, Program Supervisor; and Ms. Melinda Doan, Administrative Assistant and Recording Secretary.

Also present were: Mr. Bill Hansen, Sturm Heating; Mr. Jerry Peterson, Building Trades; Mr. Rod Clay, SWID Plumbers and Pipe Fitters JATC; Mr. Mike Kelly, Plumbers/Pipe Fitters LU 296; Mr. Harold Thomas, ICC; Mr. Nick Nap, Lewiston, ID; Mr. Kraig Stevenson, ICC; Mr. Bruce Graham, QHVAC; Ms. Susie McDonald, NIC; Ms. Dennie Seymour, NIC; Mr. John Cantrell, Bur. of Apprenticeship & Training; Ms. Tena Risley, Northwest HVAC Assoc.; Mr. Dwight Perkins, IAPMO; Mr. Kolby Hanson, Sheet Metal Workers #66; Ms. Sandra Gilson, IDABO/NICE; Mr. Glenn Miller, IDABO; Mr. Chris Compton, NIC & HVACReduction.net; Mr. Pat Faraca; and Mr. Mark Freeman, HPBA.

INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Minegar welcomed all attendees. Guests were encouraged to speak and asked to state their names and affiliation(s) clearly for the record.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2004

Chairman Minegar requested the board move to accept the minutes of the Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning Board Meeting of August 5, 2004. Mr. Mike Wisdom made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded. All were in favor. None opposed.

Mr. Jim Bledsoe made a motion to accept the minutes of the Tele-Conference Board Meeting of August 18, 2004, held at the Division of Building Safety in Meridian, Idaho. Seconded. All were in favor. None opposed.

FINACIAL REPORT

An overview was given of the 2005 year to date revenues and expenses. The ending balance to date is approximately \$1,002,000.00. The bureau has received approximately 1,800 applications to date.

EDUCATION

Mr. Harold Thomas of the International Code Council (ICC) gave an overview of the examination program offered by their organization. ICC offers certification of inspectors and contractor licensing examinations. Their service includes exam development (code and referenced materials), application process, administering of tests, validation of tests, security on-line and with personnel and video if given as paper/pencil, grading, reporting of results to candidate and to agency, test statistics, maintenance of tests, other language version tests, certificates, 90 day prior renewal notices, and exam diagnostics for failing candidates by category. Criteria used to validate the examination include job task analysis, protection of the publics health, safety, and welfare; and factors differentiating between skills and knowledge. Exams meet jurisdiction requirements. Reciprocity with other states may be achieved if a standardized exam is used. ICC updates their tests annually after meeting with the Board or Bureau to ensure test questions only have one possible answer and when there are any code updates.

ICC is a not for profit organization. The fees come from the testing only and cost between \$65.00 and \$100.00 depending upon whether it is administered in paper/pencil or on-line. Lasergrade (on-line) test is available seven days a week until 10:00 p.m. Paper/pencil tests are made available based upon the number of applicants and locations. The exams are open book with the passing percentage determined by the difficulty of the exam. Usually the passing grade is 70 – 75%. ICC offers three to seven versions of each test and are rotated based on the numbers of usage and the security risk. If a candidate fails an exam they may challenge the results with a \$50.00 fee and will be refunded the fee if they can prove in code that their answer is correct. Applicants retesting will be given a different version when they retake it.

ICC needs three days to do a job analysis, pool questions, and create test. ICC would require a letter of agreement detailing services and prices with a required 60-day notice to end agreement by either party. Mr. Harold Thomas agreed to send additional information to the board for review.

BREAK

Chairman Minegar called for a 15-minute break at 10:05 a.m.

EDUCATION (cont.)

Mr. Chris Compton of Northern Idaho College presented a handout detailing a proposal for an apprentice program. There was debate regarding the six specialty categories outlined and how many would be required to be a journeyman in residential and/or commercial. Ideas included thought that the program should not be separated for residential or commercial but rather should be all-inclusive and should include teaching and training in the four fuel categories as determined by the International Fuel Gas and Mechanical codes adopted in law.

Concern was voiced regarding direct supervision not being possible in some categories in some areas throughout the state. Clarification was made that the total OJT hours were not directly tied to training in each specialty category. Specialty categories are not a feasible option because enforcement would be impossible. There aren't enough inspectors to stand over each job site to ensure nobody works outside their specialty category. A suggestion was made to reduce the direct supervision clause from four years to two years as a "limited" or "residential" apprentice to allow them to work as a journeyman. Two more years would be required for an "unlimited" or "commercial" license.

Chairman Minegar clarified the purpose for an apprentice program is to create a program giving enough knowledge and training to become a journeyman, ensure public protection, follow the law as written, be workable for the contractor, and to make it manageable and enforceable by the Bureau. Chairman Minegar directed Mr. Chris Compton and Mr. Bruce Graham put together an overview of the philosophy of their proposal and a written document outlining the two different types of programs discussed and all the state recognized courses and present it to the board so that a focus group may review it for presentation at the next board meeting.

CODES

The board has the responsibility and authority to protect the public by making amendments to the codes if deemed necessary for public protection. Any changes must be supported with proper physical evidence.

Explanation was given that the state adopted International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is the basis for the rule in the International Mechanical Code (IMC) in reference to load calculations for heat loss and gain. Issues concerning safety, duct design, homeowner requirements, and contractor complaints were discussed. There must be coordination between the IECC and the IMC before any amendments are made.

The low pressure/high pressure gas tests were discussed. Concern was voiced that the LP gas industry is not being considered. It was noted for the Board's consideration that many jurisdictions refer to the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), Chapter 12, for fuel piping provisions. Inspections and point of delivery as listed in the NFPA 58, the IRC, and the IFGC were discussed. The IFGC allows tank to house inspections.

LP gas in pits, unvented heaters, combustion air, and carbon monoxide were also discussed. Adopted code prohibits unvented heaters as sole heat source in occupied (sleeping) buildings and schools. Chairman Minegar requested the board members conduct further research into the codes before any amendments are made.

CIVIL PENALTIES

The board was provided verbiage from the Plumbing and Electrical rules for comparison. The specific provisions were reviewed pertaining to fines for licensed people, unlicensed people, and people working outside their scope of licensure. Concern for the apprentices was voiced since they are required to do exactly what they are told to do by their contractors. Specific rules will need to be written for apprentices. At this time, the contractor will be held responsible for their apprentices. The Board will need to decide whom to issue civil penalties to and at what range of fees. The board agreed that any person in violation of the Idaho laws and HVAC rules should be administered civil penalties. Ms. Kay Manweiler, Deputy Attorney General, agreed to draft a civil penalties proposal for the boards review.

APPRENTICE VERBIAGE

The board was given examples of the Electrical and Plumbing board's apprentice language. Chairman Minegar will meet with Ms. Manweiler to prepare a draft of proposed apprentice rules for the boards review.

PROPOSED FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

Future board meetings will be held on Tuesdays. The HVAC Board agreed to the following board meeting dates and locations:

November 2, 2004	-	Meridian	-	9:00 a.m.
January 25, 2005	-	Meridian	-	9:00 a.m.
April 26, 2005	-	Idaho Falls	-	9:00 a.m.
July 26, 2005	-	Meridian	-	9:00 a.m.
October 25, 2005	-	Post Falls	-	9:00 a.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Jerry Peterson volunteered his time to meet with board members to discuss apprentice program options. Chairman Minegar requested that a committee including himself, Mr. Jerry Peterson, Mr. Jim Bledsoe, Mr. Bruce Graham, and Mr. Chris Compton continue working on the apprentice program to help the board make decisions. Chairman Minegar will set-up a tele-conference or meeting date.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Minegar thanked the HVAC staff, Board members, guest speakers, and guests and encouraged E-Mail correspondence with the HVAC Bureau with any suggestions or comments.

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

DAVE MUNROE
SECRETARY OF THE BOARD

MELINDA DOAN
MINUTES RECORDER